



March 9, 2022

Good afternoon Chairmen Senator Will Haskell and Representative Roland Lemar, Vice Chairs Senator Cassano and Representative Simms, Ranking Members Senator Somers and Representative Carney; and the distinguished members of the Transportation Committee.

My name is Tony Cavallaro and I am the Owner and President of Airport Road Auto Body located in Hartford and I thank you for allowing me to testify before the Transportation Committee today in **support of HB 5366**, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Motor Vehicle Statutes.

Airport Road Auto Body first opened in 1983 working out of a 3,000 square foot facility on Airport Road in Hartford. Over time, our business grew and after several renovations, in 2017 we were able to expand to a new facility at our current location, on Locust Street in Hartford. We currently employ 30 highly trained technicians at this location and use state of the art equipment for all repairs.

Each of our technicians are factory trained in repairs for General Motors, Range Rover, VW, BMW, Jaguar, Tesla, and many other vehicles. Our business is highly focused on servicing our clients and providing vehicle repairs to factory specifications. This is extremely important. Vehicles being produced today require highly technical advanced training. Therefore, it's critically important for consumer safety to install original equipment, (OEM parts), in order to have the vehicle returned back to the consumer performing as originally designed by the manufacturer.

I have also submitted and call to your attention, State of Connecticut Contract #17PSX0211, Exhibit A (b) #5, which states that a contractor "shall only use Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) parts for repairs to State owned vehicles". If the State requires OEM parts for their own vehicles, I feel that is only proper that this requirement cover all Connecticut residents.

As the proposed measures would save lives, make vehicles safer, and protect consumers, it is my sincere hope that the Transportation Committee will pass this much needed legislation. Thank you for hearing my testimony and I am happy to answer any questions at this time.

Sincerely,

Tony Cavallaro, Sr.

Tony Cavallaro, Sr.

Airport Road Auto Body

75 Locust Street • Hartford, CT 06114 • 860-296-2639

EXHIBIT A

DESCRIPTION OF GOODS & SERVICES AND ADDITIONAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. DESCRIPTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES:

(a) Contract Description

Contractor shall provide auto body repairs to State owned vehicles throughout various locations in the State of Connecticut.

(b) Contractor Requirements

1. Contractor shall be properly licensed to perform vehicle body repair services in Connecticut.
2. Contractor shall maintain compliance with all State of Connecticut laws and regulations.
3. Failure to remain properly licensed and in compliance with state laws and regulations applicable to the vehicle body repair industry, will constitute a Breach of Contract.
4. Contractor shall have a minimum of three (3) years' experience in the auto body repair business in Connecticut.
5. Contractor shall only use Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) parts for repairs to State owned vehicles.

(c) Estimates

1. Contractor shall provide cost estimates ("Estimate") to repair auto body damage in an electronic format. Estimates provided in any other format will be rejected and may constitute a Breach of Contract.
2. The Client Agency shall provide appropriate contact information, including e-mail addresses to the Contractor.
3. Contractor shall make an inspection of the damage to the vehicle for the Estimate at the location prescribed by the Client Agency. The Client Agency will not provide pictures of the damage to the Contractor.
4. When a vehicle is totaled and determined to be unrepairable, Contractor shall provide a current actual cash value (ACV) of the vehicle, based on year, make, model, mileage, options and pre-accident condition, and an Estimate of the cost of repair.
5. Contractor shall use labor rates listed in Exhibit B Price Schedule of the Contract when preparing an Estimate.